

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated November 16, 2004, 1, 2, 7, 13 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are in the case. The Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the present application.

Record is made of a telephonic phone call from Applicants' attorney Edmond A. DeFrank to Examiner A. Lee. The Office Action December 15, 2004, the cited references and the pending claims were mentioned. A proposed amendment modifying the independent claims was mentioned during the call. The above amendments to the claims reflect the topic mentioned during the call made by the Applicants' attorney.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 9-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Daizo (U.S. Paten No. 6,424,654).

The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejections based on the amendments to the claims and the arguments below.

Applicants respectfully submit that Daizo does not disclose all of the claimed features in the independent claims. In particular, the Examiner argued that Daizo discloses that "...DHCP server 11 determines and assigns an IP address from its local addressing pool (memory)..." However, the Applicants' claimed invention instead include requesting a network address for a network adapter card for creating a mapping of the process executing on the processor to a local network address (support for this feature can be found in paragraphs [0047-0050] of the Applicants' specification). Although Daizo "...selects a DHCP server which assigns an IP address whose distance from the reference address is smallest, and requests use of the IP address to the selected DHCP server." (see Abstract of Daizo), Daizo does not use mapping for assigning the local network address to the process in favor of other network addresses if the local network address is available, as claimed by Applicants.

Hence, since the cited reference does not disclose all of the elements of the Applicants' claimed invention, the reference cannot anticipate the claims. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 3 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Daizo. The Office Action also rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daizo in view of Liao et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,633,865).

The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejection based on the amendments to the claims and the arguments below.

Specifically, Daizo, alone or in combination with Liao, do not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the claimed features of the amended claims. For example, although Liao discloses "...a hashing procedure for the MAC address lookup..." (see col. 8, line 41), Liao does not disclose, in combination with Daizo, the Applicants' requesting a network address for a network adapter card for creating a mapping of the process executing on the processor to a local network address and using the mapping for assigning the local network address to the process in favor of other network addresses if the local network address is available.

Applicants' invention instead teach that an inverse hash function can be used that maps the process to a local network resource. In other words, the processor executing the process can be mapped to the addresses corresponding to the processor's section of the hash table. Using the inverse hash function, the network address allocator tries to allocate a network address that resides in the local memory of the processor. A determination is then made as to whether a network address residing in the local memory of the processor is available. If so, then the network address allocator allocates a network address residing in the local memory of the processor. Otherwise, the network address allocator allocates any available network address, which will be a network address residing in the local memory of another processor (i.e. remote memory) (see paragraphs [0047 and 0061] of Applicants' specification).

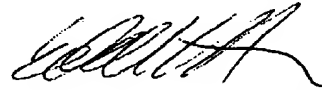
The combination of Daizo with Liao does not disclose the Applicants' claimed creating a mapping of the process executing on the processor to a local network address and using the mapping for assigning the local network address to the process in favor of other network addresses if the local network address is available.

Accordingly, the combined references cannot render the Applicants' invention obvious. This failure of the cited references to disclose, suggest or provide motivation for the Applicants' claimed invention indicates a lack of a prima facie case of obviousness (MPEP 2143).

With regard to the dependent claims, since they depend from the above-argued respective independent claims, they are therefore patentable on the same basis. (MPEP § 2143.03). Also, the other prior art references cited by the Examiner also have been considered by the Applicants in requesting allowance of the dependant claims and none have been found to teach or suggest the Applicants' claimed invention.

In view of the arguments and amendments set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the subject application are in immediate condition for allowance. Thus, it is respectfully requested that all of the claims be allowed based on the amendments and arguments. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. Additionally, in an effort to further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicants kindly request the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at (818) 885-1575.

Respectfully submitted,
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